

The church in Phoenix

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meetings at Districts 1 & 2

7:30 pm – Chinese-speaking prayer meeting at District 2

7:00 pm - Spanish-speaking prayer meeting in the homes

Friday

6:30 pm – English-speaking College Meetings

7:00 pm – Chinese-speaking Student Meetings

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

8:00 pm – Young People's Meeting

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

Knowing and Experiencing the All-Inclusive, Extensive Christ – Week 1

Ministry Publication Reading

Life-Study of Deuteronomy: Messages 25 & 26

Scripture Reading

Rom. 8:26-27

Announcements

❖ 2020 Memorial Day Conference

- Memorial Day Conference messages will be streamed at the following times in our time zone.
Message 1: Friday, May 22; 7pm
Messages 2&3: Saturday, May 23; 10am & 7pm
Messages 4&5: Lord's Day, May 24; 10am & 7pm
Message 6: Monday, May 25; 10am

❖ Bro. Minoru Chen will speak, via Zoom, to the Mountain States churches related to his burden on Building Up Intercessory Prayer in the Lord's Recovery

- Lord's Day, May 10 @ 7pm
- Instructions to join via Zoom are on the email letter sent out to the saints

❖ 2020 European Young Peoples' and Parents' and Children's' Conference – conducted via Zoom

- Registration: May 4-11; <https://ypconference.eu/>
- YP Conference:
Part 1: Saturday, May 16
Part 2: Saturday, June 20
Part 3: Friday, July 31 – Monday, August 3
Part 4: Saturday, August 29
- Parents and Children's Conference:
Parents Conference: June 5-7
Family Conference: June 26-28

❖ The Holy Word for Morning Revival: Knowing and Experiencing the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ available for sale on Lord's Day, 5/3, at Two Locations

- District 1 at Michael & Helen Rhodes' front door from 9am-5pm.
- District 2 at Ellen Arnolds' front porch from 9am-5pm.
- Cost: \$6.00; cash (exact change) or check payable to: The church in Phoenix

❖ Offerings

- All offerings are to be carried out electronically.
- Monies can be sent through Zelle or Popmoney to the church's bank account. The email address is offerings@churchinphoenix.org.

Persevere in Prayer

❖ Join the second round of the 24 HR/30 Days Global Prayer

- Sign up at <https://unceasinglypray.org>

❖ Please refer to the church website for full detailed items of the prayer burdens: <http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

Riches from the Ministry

...[A] real prayer is the mutual contact between God and man. Prayer is not just man contacting God, but also God contacting man. If in prayer man does not touch or contact God, and God does not touch or contact man, that prayer is below the proper standard. Every prayer that is up to the standard is one which is a mutual flow and contact between God and man. God and man are just like electric currents flowing into one another. It is hard for you to say that prayer is solely God in man or solely man in God. According to the fact and experience, prayer is the flowing between God and man. Every prayer that is truly up to the standard surely will have a condition of mutual flowing between God and man so that man may actually touch God and God may actually touch man; thus, man is united with God, and God with man. Therefore, the highest and most accurate meaning of prayer is that it is the mutual contact between God and man.

A real prayer is also man breathing in God just as he breathes in air. While you are thus breathing in God, spontaneously you are obtaining God, just as when you breathe in air you receive air. Consequently, not only is God obtained by you and becomes your enjoyment, but also your whole being surrenders to God, turns unto God, and is wholly gained by God. The more you pray, the more you will be filled with God, and the more you will surrender yourself to God and be gained by Him. If you do not pray for a week or, even worse, a month, then you will be quite far from God. What does it mean to be quite far from God? It means that you cannot obtain God and be obtained by Him. The only remedy for this situation is to pray. And it is not enough to pray for only two or three minutes; you must pray again and again until you have actually breathed God and are actually obtained by God, and God by you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, real prayer is of great importance to a Christian's spiritual life.

If a brother or sister has really learned the secret of prayer covered in the preceding two points, spontaneously there will be the following result: such a praying one will certainly cooperate with God, work together with God, and allow God to express Himself and His desire from within him and through him, ultimately accomplishing God's purpose. This is according to Romans 8:26 and 27, which tell us that we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Holy Spirit intercedes in us according to God's purpose.

Brothers, real prayers are the Holy Spirit within man expressing God's desire through man. In other words, real prayers are prayers involving two parties. They are not simply man alone praying to God, but they are the Spirit mingling with man, putting on man, and joining with man in prayer. Outwardly it is man praying, but inwardly it is the Spirit praying. This means two parties express the same prayer at the same time. Please remember that this alone is the prayer which is spoken of in the Scriptures.

We often speak of Elijah's prayer. James 5:17 says, "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months." "Prayed earnestly" in Greek means prayed with prayer, or prayed in prayer. This is a very peculiar expression in the Bible. Please remember, this is what we mean by prayer of two parties. When Elijah was praying, he was praying with or in a prayer. In other words, he prayed with the prayer of the Spirit within him. Thus we can say that Elijah's prayer was God praying to Himself in Elijah. Andrew Murray once said that a real prayer is Christ Who indwells us praying to Christ Who is sitting on the throne. That Christ would be praying to Christ Himself sounds strange, but in our experience this is really the case.

Let us look again at Romans 8:27. There is a clause which says, "the Spirit...intercedes...according to God." This means that the Holy Spirit prays in us according to God; that is, God prays in us through His Spirit. Thus, such a prayer certainly expresses God's intention as well as God Himself.

By these illustrations we can see that real prayers will certainly cause our being to be wholly mingled with God. We will become a person of two parties, i.e. God mingled with man. When you pray it is He praying, and when He prays it is also you praying. When He prays within you, then you express the prayer outwardly. He and you are altogether one, inside and outside; He and you both pray at the same time. At that time you and God cannot be separated, being mingled as one. Consequently, you not only cooperate with God but also work together with God that God Himself and His desire may be expressed through you; thus ultimately accomplishing God's purpose. This is the real prayer which is required of us in the Bible.

From our fellowship...we can see that the Bible is God breathing out Himself, while prayer is our breathing in God. Bible reading and prayer are our breathing before God and thus our breathing in of God. Hence, we should not be those who only read the Bible and fail to pray. If we only read the Word, we do allow God to breathe out Himself, but we still do not breathe in God. Thus we still need to pray...Real prayer always matches the Scriptures; it is an exhaling and inhaling before God, causing us and God, God and us, to contact one another and to obtain one another. Consequently, we wholly cooperate and work with God, and God expresses Himself and His desire through us, ultimately accomplishing His purpose. This is a fundamental meaning of prayer in the Bible. *Lessons on Prayer: Chapter One, pp. 15-21*